

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 – 6:00pm

Peeler Recreation Center – 1300 Sykes Avenue

PRESENT MEMBERS: Rose Marie Ponton, Chair, Carl Brower, Jr., Vice-Chair, Paul Brown, Marc Bush, Ken Free, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard

ABSENT MEMBERS: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Branson, Candice Bruton, Kathy Cates, Edwina Greene, John Hughes, Darryl Kosciak, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Brooks Mullane, Weesie Person, Marcie Richardson, Laurie Thore, Councilperson Goldie Wells, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Peeler Recreation Center. Rose Marie Ponton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 10, 2008 Commission Meeting were approved with a correction under Old Business, Hagan-Stone Property Transfer, 10th paragraph.

The submitted version:

Ponton stated that Hagan-Stone Park was built with Land and Water Conservation Funds in 1964 and there was not a Guilford County Parks and Recreation until 1989 which the reason why it was originally a city park. The land was given by the Hagan family. In 1990 Guilford County did a Master Plan and Hagan-Stone Park was not included. This park mostly serves the residents in Pleasant Garden and is another reason for the transfer.

The corrected version:

Ponton stated that Hagan-Stone Park was built with Land and Water Conservation Funds in 1964 and there was not a Guilford County Parks and Recreation until 1989 which the reason why it was originally a city park. The land was given by the Hagan family. In 1990 Guilford County did a Master Plan for future county parks but the Hagan-Stone Park area was not included. This park mostly serves the residents in Pleasant Garden and is another reason for the transfer.

Recognition

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation December Employee of the Month, Edwina Greene.

Ponton recognized Gary Brown for his volunteer efforts with Greensboro Beautiful.

Peeler Recreation Center Presentation

Weesie Person, Recreation Center Superintendent, presented the Commission with events and programs currently held at the center.

Kuester stated that Peeler Center is having discussions with the new McGirt-Horton Branch Library to partner in providing strong programs for the community.

OLD BUSINESS

2009 Parks and Recreation Proposed Fee Schedule

Dan Maxson, Administrative Services Manager, stated that the Commission was presented with the 2009 Parks and Recreation Proposed Fee Schedule during the last Commission meeting. The proposed fee changes were then posted on the Parks and Recreation website and in Parks and Recreation facilities for public awareness allowing time for

citizen input. No comments were received. Maxson requested that the Commission consider adopting the proposed fees.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Brown and seconded to adopt the 2009 Parks and Recreation proposed fee changes. A vote in favor was unanimous.

CIP Presentation

Candice Bruton, Planning and Project Development Manager, stated that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process was discussed during the previous Commission meeting. The CIP is a 6 year planning document for capital improvements and is a continuous work in progress. The projects on the list need to be prioritized for a future bond referendum. Bruton stated that the CIP assisted in submitting projects for the possible Presidential Administration Stimulus Package. Staff was asked to create a list of projects that could begin construction within 180 days for the possible stimulus package. This list totaled 19 million dollars. Such projects included on the list are Keeley Park and the Southwest Recreation Center. Plans are complete for both facilities. The stimulus could come in two waves which would allow the opportunity to prepare plans for War Memorial Stadium. Although not included in the CIP because they are smaller projects; a parking lot at Warnersville Recreation Center, additional parking at the Sportsplex, installment of fire alarms and security cameras at various facilities could be a possibility.

Bruton informed the Commission that a new Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan is needed. The Commission may choose to support this Master Plan funding request in the coming year or two. A new Master Plan would assist in setting priorities through public input.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Hoggard and seconded to approve the CIP list. A vote in favor was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Governor's Crime Commission Grant

Darryl Kosciak, Youth First Coordinator, stated that in spring 2008 the Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department, Guilford Police Activities League, and JobLink received a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission to provide funding for youth and families who participate in community programs. The grant allowed JobLink to hire an additional 83 youth this past summer and will be able to do so again this coming summer. The Guilford Police Activities League wants to offer their program at all 10 recreation centers in the city. They are currently at Windsor and Peeler Recreation Centers with expansion to a third center soon. The grant gave Parks and Recreation the ability to pay for participant fees for basketball, football and after school programs at 5 recreation centers (Craft, Warnersville, Peeler, Windsor and Glenwood). The grant has provided funding for 375 football participants, at least 500 basketball participants (120 spots at each of the 5 centers), and 140 spaces in the after school program. The Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships at UNCG has conducted 5 focus groups at each of the 5 centers consisting of youth, parents, and others. Kosciak read a letter from a parent whose child participates in Warnersville Center programs and extending thanks for giving their child the opportunity to participate without any financial obligation; otherwise the child would not be able to participate.

Playful City (not on agenda)

Ponton informed the Commission that Lori Galbreath, Commissioner, is considering serving on the Playful City Subcommittee, however if Galbreath is unable to serve members should inform Ponton if they are interested.

Brooks Mullane, Program Support Supervisor, stated that Playful City USA is a designation with a concentrated effort to get children outside and utilize playgrounds. Throughout the application year there will be play dates announced publicly.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

- NONE -

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Kuester announced that this is her final Commission meeting due to retirement after 41 years of service. Kuester stressed how important dedication and commitment from the Commission is to the department.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Lori Galbreath commended Kuester for her efforts with the Commission and the Parks and Recreation Friends Foundation.

David Hoggard stated that there was a Letter to the Editor published in the News & Record accusing the Commission of trickery regarding the Aquatics Center. Hoggard stated that he wanted to go on record saying that did not occur and that he has written this individual directly and has also submitted a Letter to the Editor in regards to the matter. Hoggard wished Kuester best wishes with her retirement.

Paul Brown referenced his Letter to the Editor regarding the great attribute Kuester has given Parks and Recreation and Greensboro. Brown inquired about the process for hiring a new director.

Kuester replied stating that the City is currently accepting letters of interest from Greensboro city employees for the interim director who will serve until a permanent director is selected. The position will be advertised nationally and there will be an extensive process that will include assessment teams and committees involving a variety of people (Commissioners, Councilpersons, experts, etc.). There should be opportunity for the Commission to have input.

Brown offered his assistance to serve on a committee during the process.

Brown expressed concern regarding the vacant seats on the Commission and the tenure of their vacancy.

Brown commended department staff on the 75th Anniversary Tabloid.

Ken Free wished Kuester success with her retirement.

Marc Bush stated that Greensboro is known for its parks, recreation, gardens, etc. and much of the credit goes to Kuester and wished her the best.

Rose Marie Ponton stated that Kuester's professionalism, concern for Greensboro and every part of Parks and Recreation has been Kuester's desire and wished her well.

With no further business Ponton adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation